Threatened and Endangered Species in Forests of Wisconsin

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Mussels and Snails





PURPLE WARTYBACK MUSSEL



CHERRYSTONE DROP SNAIL



OVERVIEW

Mussels and snails are important because they serve as indicators of water quality and are vital members of stream, river and lake aquatic communities. Dwindling numbers of native mussels in Wisconsin rivers and lakes are an indication that water quality is being degraded and habitat is being lost. These animals have varied lifestyles, habitats and methods of reproduction, and several species are commercially valuable.

Eighteen species of freshwater mussels and four species of terrestrial snails are federally and/ or state-listed in Wisconsin. Like fish, mussels and snails are best protected by protecting water quality, streambed integrity, and associated terrestrial habitat. Forestry operations in watersheds where these rare mollusks (mussels and snails) occur should be conducted in a manner to avoid soil erosion and prevent sediments and other pollutants from entering the waterways. Refer to Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality by the Wisconsin Bureau of Forestry.

There are 22 state-listed endangered and threatened mollusk species in Wisconsin. Following are a series of maps that show their known ranges.

BUCKHORN MUSSEL

(Triogonia verrucosa)

Federal Status: Not Listed

State Status: Threatened



BULLHEAD MUSSEL

(Plethobasus cyphus)

Federal Status: Not Listed

State Status: Endangered



BUTTERFLY MUSSEL

(Ellipsaria lineolata)

Federal Status: Not Listed



CHERRYSTONE DROP SNAIL

(Hendersonia occulta)

Federal Status: Not Listed

State Status: Threatened



EBONY SHELL MUSSEL

(Fusconaia ebena)

Federal Status: Not Listed

State Status: Endangered



ELEPHANT EAR MUSSEL

(Elliptio crassidens)

Federal Status: Not Listed



ELLIPSE MUSSEL

(Venustaconcha ellipsiformis)

Federal Status: Not Listed State Status: Threatened



HIGGINS' EYE PEARLYMUSSEL

(Lampsilis higginsi)

Federal Status: Endangered State Status: Endangered



MIDWEST PLEISTOCENE

VERTIGO SNAIL

[HUBRICHT'S VERTIGO SNAIL]

(Vertigo hubrichtii)

Federal Status: Not Listed State Status: Endangered



MONKEYFACE MUSSEL

(Quadurla metanevra)

Federal Status: Not Listed

State Status: Threatened



OCCULT VERTIGO SNAIL

(Vertigo occulta)

Federal Status: Not Listed

State Status: Endangered



PURPLE WARTYBACK MUSSEL

(Cyclonaias tuberculata)

Federal Status: Not Listed



RAINBOW SHELL MUSSEL

(Villosa Iris)

Federal Status: Not Listed

State Status: Endangered



ROCK POCKETBOOK MUSSEL

(Arcidens confragosus)

Federal Status: Not Listed

State Status: Threatened



SALAMANDER MUSSEL

(Simpsonaias ambigua)

Federal Status: Not Listed

State Status: Threatened



SLIPPERSHELL MUSSEL

(Alasmidonta viridis)

Federal Status: Not Listed

State Status: Threatened



SNUFFBOX MUSSEL

(Epioblasma triquertra)

Federal Status: Not Listed

State Status: Endangered



SPECTACLE CASE MUSSEL

(Cumberlandia monodonta)

Federal Status: Not Listed



WARTYBACK MUSSEL

(Quadrula nodulata)

Federal Status: Not Listed

State Status: Threatened



WING SNAGGLETOOTH SNAIL

(Gastrocopta procera)

Federal Status: Not Listed

State Status: Threatened



WINGED MAPLELEAF MUSSEL

(Quadrula fragosa)

Federal Status: Endangered



YELLOW SANDSHELL

[Slough Sandshell] (Lampsilis teres)

Federal Status: Not Listed

